#### A VIRGINIA LETTER.

The Chesapeake Bay-The Peninsala-Peach Blossoms-West Point-The Battle-fields-How They Look-The White House and its Surroundings-The Soldiers' Burying Grounds - gusiness-Political Affairs, Etc. Etc. From Our Own Correspondent.

RICHMOND, Va., April 3, 1869. Taking the steamer Admiral, Captain Kirwan commanding, the Richmond and York River Railroad line, at Baltimore, is the commencement of one of the most delightful excur sions on the continent. The Chesapeake Bay itself an inland sea, probably affords more diver sity of scenery than any other body of sait water on the western continent; and the suav manners and kindly spirit of the officers of the boat maker the journey, which otherwise would be monotonous, one constant round of pleasure

Dashing down the bay, the eye wanders to the familiar landmarks of war times. There stands Fort Federal Hill, frowning, as usual, over the streets of Baltimore, but now trimmed of its "bull-dogs of war," and doing duty as a peaceful signal station for the merchants of the town-Alittle further on, and Fort Marshall carves its outline against the horizon. Like its companion on Federal Hill, it is now but a mark of the times gone by, and the cows and goats now pasture on its green bastions and parapets. Directly opposite stands old Fort McHenry. grim and savage looking, as of old, but without a human being in sight. Four short years ago thousands of armed men trod, drilled, and manœuvred on the parade, which to day is as green and peaceful as a farmer's meadow. Gliding gently along, the next object which meets the eye is Fort Carroll, a massive structure of solid masonry, rising, spectre like, from the middle of the channel. It was commenced many years ago, but since the war has developed the fact that such a work is mere pie-crust when attacked by the iron monitors. the Government has ceased operations upon it and it now stands about two thirds done. In answer to a question, I was informed that the Government had disposed of the concern to a Baltimore capitalist, who intended turning it into a sort of foster home or refuge for indigent men and women. If this be a fact, it looks as though the philanthropic gentleman has put himself in possession of a very large elephant.

'Passing on, old Sol gradually hides his brazen face behind the dense groves of pine which line the shore, and then the numerous lighthouses commence to flash and glitter from the different promontories which jut out on either side, and the shore is nidden from view. Supper is served; the freshest fish and oysters grace the tables, and with appetites whetted to a keen edge by the sait sea air, one scarcely leaves the table until, to the eyes of the lookeron, he has almost made a gourmand of hunself. The evening wears swiftly away, and at length nothing is heard except the groaning of the machinery, entivened occasionally by the squeak of some weary loon, who is disturbed from his bed of foam by the pattering of the wheels and the swash of the boat as she dashes along, guided by men who are as tamiliar with the waters of the bay as the farmer is with his gar-den paths. Sun up, the next morning finds us bowling up the York river, and by 7 o'clock we touch at Yorktown. Here, for the first time, we find the peach trees in fall bloom, and the very a riaden with the aweet perfume of thousands of wild flowers. There are few or no people, except those who have business with the beat, to be seen, and no traces of the rava-ges of the stege of McClellan remain to tell the tale of sickness and death, save sloping earthworks of the water battery, rendered memorable to our gunboatmen by the many night bombardments, and the parapets of the fort, which frown from the bluff above. Touching at Gloucester, we again pass on; and after a hearty breakfast, we visit the drck to find ourselves within sight of West Point, where our journey by water ceases. Directly opposite the Point is a flat, surrounded on three sides by dense woods, and flanked in the rear by the Pamunky river. This place is no doubt fresh in the minds of many Pennsylvania and New Jersey veterans, for it was the first place that Frankitn's provisional division smelt the smoke of war. It is called Brick House (Heston, I believe, errone asty called it "the Baltic of West Point") and waile the main army, under McCiellan, was fighting at Williamsburg, Franklin's division went no the river on transports, and landed. They were only ten miles in advance of the main body of the main body of the enemy, and had they moved directly to the front would probably have succeeded in cutting Macrader off, prevented him from going to Richmond, and ultimately have bagged his "eight thousand." As it was, the troops laid quiet all night, and in the morning were attacked in the morning were attacked. in their own camps by a flanking corps of the enemy, and engaged long enough to give the main body an opportunity to pass. Our troops old some fine fighting under Newton and slocum, but the evemy having succeeded in passing us, suddenly decamped from our front, and left us to await the arrival of the main army. I happen to be thoroughly familiar with the circumstances, and therefore mention it thus particularly to correct the many erroneous statements which have appeared from time to time concerning it.

time concerning it. Once landed, we step immediately on board the train in waiting, and in a few moments are whirling through the pines towards the Robel whiring through the pines towards the Rebel capital. At a cross road about three miles from the depot we halt for a moment, to leave a fine looking young fellow off, who stalks through the woods, with a ham under one arm, and a shad suspended to a garden rake flung over his shoulder. Who is he? That is Robert E. Lee, the youngest son of the Rebel leader. He has a tarm of some four hyndred acres here are tarm of some four hundred acres here among the pines, and while it is true that he is a little wild, yet, like his father, he attends to his business, and leaves politics to take care of themselves. So he should! On we go, through a country wild enough to sait the most fasticious tastes until crossing the Pannaker west. tastes, until, crossing the Pamunkey, we halt for a moment at the White House. Seven years ago, within three months, I saw countless thousands of dollars worth of Government property destroyed on the broad acres which are now grown over with rank weeds, or turned over by the hand of the ploughman. The mansion itself has been rebuilt, and looks the same, with exception of the color, which is now a dusky brown, as it did before the war. The outhouses have also been rebuilt, many of the rifle pits levelled, and things generally "out on a peace footing." Passing on, here and there an earthwork is still

built, and looks the same, with exception of the color, which is now a dusky brown, as it did before the war. The outhouses have also been rebuilt, many of the rifle pits levelled, and things generally "put on a peace footing." Passing on, here and there an earthwork is still visible, but further than that there is little to remind one of the days and scenes of blood and suffering which took place during the Manassas campalen of McCleltan, or she stubbornly contested raids of the cavalry of the Army of the Potomac about the Chickahominy, or the advance of Grant to ultimate victory, or the downfall of F. F. Isml in the United States. The graveyards, where rest the bones of many galish and loved youths, are all that is left to tell to the eye the tale of death.

While it is true, to a considerable extent, that business is paralyzed in the State of Virginia prosperity." The presence of piles of treehly-sawed lumber which hay along the railing road awaiting transit to market, and the thin columns of smoke which rise in different directions over the tree-tops, indicate that busy hands and active brasins from somewhere are turning the almost desert wilderness into profit, and at the same time rendering the rich lands man. In conversation with the residents of the region through which we passed, I learn that these saw-mills and gangs of wood-choppers are mostly, if not exclusively, under the country drawn and received the substantians of the region through which we passed, I learn that these saw-mills and gangs of wood-choppers are mostly, if not exclusively, under the country drawn and receive the substantians of the region through which we passed, I learn that these saw-mills and gangs of wood-choppers are mostly, if not exclusively, under the country drawn and receive the substantians of the region through which we passed, I learn that these saw-mills and gangs of wood-choppers are mostly, if not exclusively, under the country drawn and receive the substantians of the "Ploidaelphia market, failing an exercise of th

The reason why Southern men did not indulg: in the same sort of business, I am in-formed is because they are without capital. For myself I am inclined to believe it a superabundance of pride and an unconquerable desire to live as in days of yore, rather than a want of capital. However, let me give to the Virginians the benefit of the douot, and concede it a want

of capital.

Just now the Sta'e is in a condition of political chaos, which nobody pretends to unfer-stand, and I leave that all-important subject for a revie w at a later day.

#### THE CATTLE BILL.

On Friday evening, April 2, Mr. Randall, of Schuylkill, in the State Senate, called up the notorious Cattle bill, and moved to proceed to its consideration, and a bitter contest ensued. One Senator, General Harry White, of Indiana county, spoke as follows against the bill: -

Mr. Speaker-II this bill is not infamous it is certainly famous. It must be important, because it has been pressed upon the Legislature for the last six years, by self styled benevolent individuals with varying success. While it has always been glorified by the few interested individuals, it has always been dreaded and denounced by the people of Paula. delphia and of Pennsylvania, where they knew its character. It must be important, however, because all legislative proceedings for the past few days have been had with reference to this bill. Although the sassion rapidly advances, day before yesterday the attempt was made to give this bill preference over the general appropriation bill. This was prevented only by the enforcement of a most salutary rule of our body. Yesterday, however, we held three sessions, in the aggregate exceeding ten hours. To-day we met at 10 o'clock, and if you look at yonder clock, you will observe it is now a quarter of 8 o'clock. No ad. journment for usual refreshment will be allowed by the friends of this bill, and as amendment after amendment, in the interest of the public, was offered by Senators to different sections of the general appropriation bill, I observed around the hall the restive anxiety and impatience of the friends of this project. They seemed jealous of the time and care given to the annual appropriation bill, lest the consideration of the darling of their hearts might be postponed. Sir, in view of these facts, this must be an important bill, What is it? Common rumor calls it "The Cattle Bill." It, sir, is entitled "An Act to Incorporate the Philadelphia Cattle Market Company, and es ablish a depot for the sale of cattle, calves, sheep, and hogs in the city of Philadelphia, and to provide for the

inspection of the same," By reading the first section you will observe that it plausibly and pretentiously recites as follows:-"That for the projection of the citizens, and persons doing business in the city of Phila delphia, promoting the health thereof, providing against the sale of disseased meat, and to furnish facilities for the inspection, feed. ing, storage, and sale of animals in said city." This benevolent recital is followed by carefully drawn sections creating five gentlemen and their associates a close corporation, with power. to hold real estate, establish depots for the reception and inspection of cattle, sheep, calves and bogs intended for the Philadelphia market. Added to these is a section making it a misdemeanor, with heavy penalty, to expose for sale in the city of Philadelphia the flesh of any animal not weighed, inspected, and marked as provided for in this act; thus giving the control of the trade in meats in the city of Philadel-phia to a close corporation. The time was, sir, then close corporations were strangers to our laws. In the earlier history of our legislation they were unknown, or regarded as repugnant to the genius of our liberal institutions. Why, sir, I remember, a few years since, a citizen of incorporation of a steam grist-mill, and it was refused, because it was regarded as bad policy to create a corporation to manufacture and traffic in the prime necessity of life. And yet here it is proposed to create a corporation, and close at that, to control and regulate the traffic in all meats in the Philadelphia market, and to create an entire monopoly over the cattle, sheep, and hog trade of Patladelphia. To create a monopoly which can lay tribute upon every consumer of meat in Philadelphia, and upon every dealer who seeks the market of that great city with his live stock. This is all to be done on the reductive pretension that it is for the benefit of the health and comfort of the people of Philadelphia. "What meat hath this Casar fed upon that he has grown, so great?" Now, sir, the gentlemen who appear upon this bill are well known to me: and while I would not do them any nokindness, I cannot think disinterested anxiety alone for the health of the good people of Philadelphia has brought them here to give so much of their valuable time and subject them to so he wy an expense in day after day importanting for the passage of this bil. Such philanthropy they do not wish to be charged with. But, sir, Philadelphia is not alone interested in this bill. Every man in Pennsylvania who raises a hoof of stock for the Philadelphia market is concerned against the Philadelphia market is concerned against its passage. The constituents of the Senator its passage. The constituents of the Senator from Beaver, the Senator from Allegheay, the Senators from Mercer, from Erie, from Butler, from Fayette, from Chester and Montgomery and Bucks—indeed, sir, from every agricultural district of the Commonwealth, is deeply concerned against this measure. The Senator from Beaver, Mr. Taylor, and the Senator from Allegheny, Mr. Graham, have inquired how their constituents are interested in this bill? Why, sir, do they know how many sheep and cattle resred in Washington and Allegheny counties seek, over the Pennsylvania Railroad, the Philadelphia market? The Philadelphia market is the destination of the great balk of the cattle, sheep, and nogs of Western Pennsylvania, and are not the dealers in the animals affected by all restrictions on the trade? The question answers itself. No restrictions mean question answers itself. No restrictions upon the trade, I hear! Why, sir, by the fourteenth section of your bill, the flesh of no animal can be sold in the Philadelphia market without having been weighed and inspected in the yards of this corporation. This, then, requires all the live stock to go through these yards; when once there, by the tenth section the corporation is authorized to charge two cents per hundred works for the corporation of the corporation is authorized to charge two cents per hundred works.

cattle inspector? Sir, I have to faith in these promised inspections for the beacht of the health of Philadelphia. Conducted in the manner proposed in this bill, they will be prolific in corrupt combinations against the stock grower, the drover, and the batcher—productive of higher prices to the consumer of productive of higher prices to the consumer of meats in Philadelphia. How damaging to the trade and commerce of Philadelphia these inspections authorized by the Logistature! Why, sir, but a few days since I heard my galiant friend, the Senator from the First district (McCandless) declaim against enlarging the powers of the State Whisky Inspector. I agreed with him. I thought then and think now, these inspections are unnecessary restrictions on trade, productive of nothing but pro it to the individual inspector himself. Sir, these inspections are embargoes on the commerce of inspections are embargoes on the commerce of Philadelphia. A few days since an old merchant of Philadelphia said to me, the oppressive restrictions of the auction laws broke up their best trade. Representatives of Philadelphia continue to support the policy this bill contemplates. Create monopolles like this over your trade, and you will drive traffic away from your growing, beautiful city. Shippers will seek another market for their commodities. This corporation for the benefit of Patladelphia No, sir; if it be a benefit to make dearer meat for the consumer, then is this bill a benefit. A santiary regulation for Philadelphia, says the Senator from the Fourth district (Connell). How benevolent! Complaint is made that the present cattle yards are nuisances.

If so, the courts have power to abate them. A

sanitary regulation, indeed! Where are the City Councils? They are a legislative body in your municipality—can ordain municipal regulations—can provide for inspections where necessary for the health of the people. There are now, I believe, market clerks. What do the Councils say about this? They are nearer to the citizens of Philadelphia than the Legisla ture. A few days since they sent here an carnest protest against this bill, which was read by the Clerk to the Senate. Are the petitions and remonstrances of the Councils and the people not to be heeded? If this is intended for the benefit of the public alone, I will offer an amendment in due time, authorizing the Mayor of Philadelphia to name five citizens as corporators. There can be no objection to this, as it will give the city government an interest and influence in the organization. But, sir, if it is for the protection of the health of the city, why make it so expensive to the stock dealer, and so very remunerative to the corporation? Have you calculated the very large revenue to realized by the monopoly you are creating? As I sit here I have grouped a few statistics. There are slaughtered weekly in Philadelphia not less than three thousand head of cattle. These will have to be yarded and fed. Corn can be bought for these yards at about 85 cents per bushel and can be sold to the cattle owner at about \$2 per busbel. Hay will be bought at about 75 cents per cwt. and will be sold at \$1.50 per cwt. Thus, 3000 cattle, yardage, @ 15 cts. per

3000 bushels corn per week, @ \$1 Hay profit per week about.... Weighing and inspecting, 2 cents per cwt., which will average about 25 cents per head for 3000. 750 There are about 10,000 sheep per

1,000 There are about 5000 hogs per week killed. Say 3000, consuming about 3000 bushels of corn, at profit of \$1

Yardage, 5 cents per head...... Total per week ....

Making an annual revenue of .... ...\$475,800 A fair calculation, I think. Take one half of this amount, and it is the most profitable sant-tary commission I have read of. What this will add per pound to meat in the market I cannot calculate. What the Western drover will add to his prices I cannot say. Nor can I say what the farmer and stock owner of Montgomery, o Chester, of Backs counties will add to prices for the trouble of driving his cattle, his calves, sheep, or hogs for miles in search of these yards, through which he must pass them How selfish, how illiberal, the policy that would create an immense monopoly like this! Where is that traditional hatred of the Demo-cratic party against close corporations? If the representatives of that party on this floor will but unite with a few of us on this side of the chamber, we can defeat this monstrous measure. Why not now show the sincerity of your boaste love for the memory of Andrew Jackson, and unite with us against the exorbitant demands of this corporation which seeks life at your hands Schators, do not, in the delusive hope of pro-tecting the health of a great community, violate that wise policy which keeps free our internal trade. Defeat this measure, and some respect will still be given our proceedings; pass it, and this Legislature will justly torfeit the confidence of the people of Penusylvania.

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